

New York District 26 Federal Plaza New York, N.Y. 10278 ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

Public Notice

In replying refer to:

Public Notice No. SHINNECOCK INELT 08

Published: July 7, 2008 Expires: August 7, 2008

SHINNECOCK INLET, NEW YORK FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (amended in 1977 and commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Shinnecock Inlet federal navigation project (see Figure No. 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beach 1.5 miles west of the west jetty.

ACTIVITY: Maintenance dredging of Shinnecck Inlet federal navigation project with

subsequent placement of the dredged material on the beach 1.5 miles west of

the west jetty.

WATERWAY: Shinnecock Inlet

LOCATION: Hampton Bays, New York.

The Shinnecock Inlet Federal Navigation Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1960 in accordance with the recommendations contained in the House Document No. 126, 86th Congress, 1st Session.

The existing navigation project at Shinnecock Inlet provided for: a channel 200 ft. wide and 10 feet deep at Mean Low Water (MLW) in the Atlantic Ocean to Shinnecock Bay: a deposition basin 20 feet deep, 800 feet wide seaward of the jetties that envelopes the channel, an inner bay channel 100 feet wide and 6 feet deep at MLW to the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway, a distance of about one mile: rehabilitation of the existing jetties and revetments; seaward extension of the east jetty to the 12 foot depth contour and a seaward extension of the west jetty 900 feet (Figure 1).

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on nearby beaches will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health,

welfare, economic potential, recreation and aesthetics, water quality, marine resources, ecological systems and/or flood protection.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Comments are used to assess impacts on navigation, water quality, endangered species, historic resources, wetlands, scenic and recreational values, and other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine the need for a public hearing.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT PAGE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by the activity. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

No known archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

Reviews of the activity pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines announced by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps obtained a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 2003, with approved modifications in 2003 and 2004, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which expired on March 31, 2005. A new Water Quality Certificate will be requested.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 USC 1456(c)], for activities conducted or supported by a federal agency in a state which has a federally approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, the Corps will submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. The Corps will request the State's agreement with that determination. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New York, project information is available from the Coastal Zone Management Program, New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, 41 State Street, Albany New York 12231, telephone (518) 474-3399.

In compliance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1996 amendments), an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment will be prepared and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and comment.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, First District
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Ms. Patricia Donohue, Project Manager at (917)790-8527. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-1463 ATTN: Ms. Patricia Donohue.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Shinnecock Inlet Federal Navigation Project. This channel was last dredged in 2004 with the removal of 302,590 cubic yards (CY) of sediment. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 400,000 CY of material, based on a condition survey performed in March 2008.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of Shinnecock Inlet by maritime interests.

Maintenance dredging of the Shinnecock Inlet Federal navigation project will be accomplished by pipeline dredge, hopper dredge or similar plant. The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

No work will occur during the environmental windows for roseate terns and piping plovers (April 1 to September 15).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The New York District prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in June 1987 in support of a Reformulation Study. An Environmental Assessment (EA) updating this EIS was prepared by the New York in 2004. It was determined that maintenance dredging of the Shinnecock Inlet Federal Navigation Project, with placement of the dredged material on beach 1.5 miles west of the inlet has no significant adverse environmental impacts on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection

An update of the EA and a 404 (b) evaluation as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230 will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged material from this project is to be placed on the beach 1.5 miles west of the west jetty at Road K. The dredged material will be transported by pipeline or hopper dredge and deposited at the designated site, as shown on the attached map (Figure 1).

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Results of previously performed grain size characteristics of the proposed dredged material indicate that it is predominantly sand (greater than 95% sand).

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, please visit our web site at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/.

Randall G. Hintz

Chief, Operations Support Branch

